

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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"LOOKING FOR A CITY"

By Evangelist Monroe Parker, M.A., Ph.D., D.D.

"We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come."—Heb. 13:10-14.

I say it reverently, but Jesus Christ is an outcast of human society. When He was in the world which He made, the world knew Him not. When He came to His own, His own people did not receive Him. He had appeared to Abram in the Old Testament and said, "I will make of thee a great nation." It was He who made the nation, but their leaders said, "We will not have this man to reign over us. We have no king but Caesar." He turned from His own to die on the cross, to rise again and to build His Church.



Dr. Monroe Parker

The Church, the Called-out
The very word "Church" (ecclesia) means "the called-out." The true Church of Jesus Christ is not of this world. Indeed, He said, "My kingdom is not of this world." The Church is in the world and has a very definite social responsibility. The supreme object of the Church, however, is not to reform society. Its social influence is incidental to the main purpose, that is, the gathering of a people for His name. The Church is "the salt of the earth" and as long as it is in this world, it will have saving value except in cases where it loses its savour. Jesus said, "If the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under the foot of men." (Matt. 5:13). That happened in Russia. The salt lost its savour.

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The Great Invitation

By Dr. L. E. Barton, D.D.

Matthew 11:28-30

Evangelist, author, and Official Parliamentarian of Southern Baptist Convention.

"Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Two very essential things to remember about the setting of this text are; first, the great severity our Lord used in the former part of the chapter and, second, the relation which He brings out between Himself and the Father.

He never spoke more biting and bitter words than those pronounced here against the privileged cities which had not profited by His matchless ministry. Chorazin and Bethsaida had more ingratitude, if not more iniquity, than Tyre and Sidon. His mighty works in Chorazin and Bethsaida would have turned the two sea-coast cities to God. As for Capernaum, His mighty works there would have humbled Sodom and perpetuated it to His own day. The doom of Sodom will be more bearable than that of Capernaum, which will sink to the lowest Hell. The weighty and awful guilt of rejecting the teaching and tears, the labors and love, the works and the words of Jesus delivered in person by Him, is something horrible to contemplate.

Only the heart that can react most deeply against sin can melt in greatest tenderness for the sinner. We need have no sur-

prise that a mild countenance and smile of divine love appear after a thunderbolt of wrath and dark

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Rev. L. E. Barton

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O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,—Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell,—
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

—Phillips Brooks



The Christian's CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

By Rev. R. S. Beal, D.D.
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Tucson, Arizona

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."—II Cor. 5:18-19.

It is not my purpose in this message to deal with all the glorious things revealed in the portion of Scripture I have selected as the basis of my Christmas sermon to you. I only want to emphasize four profound words which to me set forth the Christian's Christmas message, "God was in Christ." I can think of nothing more important and nothing more profound than a statement such as this. If this is not true, then Christmas is reduced to a pagan holiday, and the awful commercialism which surrounds it is fully justified.

I would like to ask the question—what does Christmas mean to you? I feel certain that the message we bear among our fellows at this season will be in accordance with our understanding of this day and the circumstances involved therein. Our message will be either natural or supernatural as we appreciate the tremendous claim of my text.

Does the Church of Jesus Christ have any relation to this season, and does it have a message any different from that which is borne by others? What have we to say to a lost and bewildered world? What message of hope can we give to the benighted millions on every side, and to those who have suffered the loss of all material possessions as a result of the awful holocaust of the past few years?

Can it be that Christmas is just another holiday marked up on the calendar of events? Do we think of it only as a time for the exchange of gifts, of remembrances, of feasting and pleasure? In a perfunctory sort of way, men talk about Jesus and His birth at Bethlehem, the visit of the shepherds and then the coming of the wise men of the east. But in the minds of multitudes, this Jesus takes His place alongside of men with no thought in the hearts of many that "God was in Christ." This is where the Church comes in with the real

message. The crass materialistic philosophy sounded out on every side is what may be expected from a materialistic world, but in such there is no message of comfort, inspiration and hope. The Christian's Christmas message is different because it is supernatural in character and breathes of the presence of God. The story we have to tell is so different as to be beyond the reasoning of the natural man. It is a message which has to do with God and therefore it is different. It is far above that heard in the classroom or from the public platform.

Not long ago a certain minister, upon leaving his flock, made a few remarks as follows, "Man's life is the greatest fact, and therefore I have devoted my time, since I first entered the ministry, to the study of life. My culture has been an attempt to explore literature as the masters through it have interpreted life. I have studied philosophy because it is an uncovering to the workings of man's mind. It has been the greatest passion of my heart and mind to understand man's



Dr. R. S. Beal

life." All of this sounds interesting and is perhaps attractive to the unregenerate mind, but it simply reminds me of the fellow who tried to lift himself by tugging at his boot straps.

The greatest fact is not man, but God, and the Christian is called upon to devote his time studying Him and coming to know Him as revealed in the Word. Nowhere are men called upon to believe in themselves, but rather in God and in His Son whom He sent into this world. The divinity of man has superseded the message of the deity of Christ. But, thank God, the true Christian, instructed in his Bible, knows that his message for today is, "God was in Christ."

As we contemplate what is involved in the real Christmas message, may I remind you that it is a

Supernatural Revelation

We praise God that He has not concealed Himself behind blue skies and distant stars. The Creator of this universe has not shut Himself off from His creatures whom He has formed that they might not see and know Him.

The more I think about this glorious time of the year and the significance of the day, it is to realize that Christmas actually means the unveiling of the heart of God to the vision of man. In the manger of Bethlehem there is focused the glory and the love of an infinite God, seeking to make Himself known and understood. Wrapped in swaddling clothes and nestled upon the bosom of His lovely mother was a Babe who is the solution of all of man's problems about God.

Time and again folk have expressed to me a desire to see and to know God. There has been a deep-seated longing to understand Him. This yearning may be satisfied by a short journey to a little village in yonder Palestine. There each one may be introduced to Him for whom the heart has longed. "God was in Christ." The teaching of both the Old and New Testaments is clear as to this great revelation of God in the person of His Son.

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The SWORD of the LORD

AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE, D.D., LITT.D., Editor and Publisher
EVANGELIST BILL RICE, Associate Editor
GRACE RICE MACMULLEN, Circulation Manager

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NEWS NOTES

J. C. Brumfield, Vice-International Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship, on a round-the-world trip, photographed in color children of the world. Based on these moving pictures, Moody Institute of Science has produced for Child Evangelism Fellowship the 45-minute color film, "LET THEM COME."

* * *

J. R. Faulkner of Tennessee Temple Schools, where Dr. Lee Roberson is president, sent us the following note November 8: "Missionary conference in session. One hundred missionaries, representing ninety-five fields, present. Tremendous response. Seventy-five cooperating churches; over seven hundred services. Please pray."

* * *

This News Note is from Mrs. C. T. Bennett of Jackson, Tennessee: "This is a news item, but because your books were used, I thought you might be interested in it. Jackson, Tennessee, does not have Sunday movies; the movie crowd has brought it up in a city referendum last year and again this last week. Last year we beat them only 18 votes, but this year 447 votes. Our pastor (West Jackson Baptist Church) will fight Sunday movies if he has to stand alone on the issue, so this year he personally bought about four dozen of your books, *What Is Wrong With the Movies?*, and sold them or loaned them out over his pulpit for about six weeks before the election. He feels like, and so do we, that those books helped us to put the vote over with a good majority which we hope will convince the movie operators that we don't want Sunday movies. Our pastor, Dr. R. E. Guy, has been with this church 32 years, and he is always blamed for keeping the shows closed on Sunday. During our recent revival, we had 97 additions, about 75 for baptism; we have a membership of about 1800."

* * *

The following lines were written by a Lake Crystal, Minnesota

sota pastor and carried in a number of Minnesota newspapers.

"Why I Do Not Attend the Movies"

1. The manager of the theater never called on me.
2. I did go a few times, but no one spoke to me. Those who go there aren't very friendly.
3. Every time I go they ask me for money.
4. Not all folks live up to the high moral standards of the films.
5. I went so much as a child, I've decided I've had all the entertainment I need.
6. The performance lasts too long; I can't sit still for an hour and three quarters.
7. I don't care for some of the people I see and meet at the theater.
8. I don't always agree with what I hear and see.
9. I don't think they have very good music at the theater.
10. The shows are held in the evenings, and that's the only time I am able to be at home with the family.

* * *

In Red China, a list appeared recently in many newspapers all over the nation which has classified the people of China according to their usefulness to the country. Here is the list of people as they are graded in order of importance in the "Peoples' Republic of China."

1. Soldiers; 2. Laborers; 3. Farmers; 4. Government Workers; 5. Artisans; 6. Intellectuals, teachers, and students; 7. Craftsmen; 8. Business; 9. Prostitutes; 10. Missionaries.

Over 2,000 high school students in the Chicago area will take part from time to time in a new television program, "Pattern for Living," aimed at a teen-age audience and which has for its goal the curbing of juvenile delinquency.

The initial program was released over WBKB, Chicago, on November 10. The program, under the direction of Doug Fisher and Harry Jaeger, is being produced under the auspices of the American Religious Television Association.

* * *

Evangelist Leslie Greening of

BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

1. THE EDITOR ANSWERS A COLORED SOLDIER'S QUESTIONS ABOUT RACE RELATION
2. WHERE TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
3. PRAYING FOR SINNERS; CHRISTIAN REDEDICATION; PRAYING TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT; CHRIST DIVINE, YET HUMAN

By Editor John R. Rice

Frequently I get letters from colored friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, who read THE SWORD OF THE LORD, and I am always glad to have them. Among these friends is Corporal John R. Faulkner of the 540th Truck Co., with our armed forces overseas. After some correspondence, Corporal Faulkner wrote me about the problem of racial hate and race discrimination. He particularly mentions inter-marriage between the races and the unhappiness involved, and he longs to see Christians of all races loving one another better, and racial discrimination abolished.

In answer to this letter, my good colored friend sent me his picture, which pleased me very much. My letter is in answer to the question, "May I ask, Do you think the Lord is pleased with the way the colored and white race live?" Now read my letter to this esteemed friend.

Letter to Colored Soldier

June 22, 1951

Dear Corporal Faulkner:

Thank you for writing to me. I was glad to have your letter.

I believe there is much wrong done by individuals in the relations between colored and white people. However, my experience is that colored people are much more upset about the matter than white people, think about it more and talk about it more. My experience is that colored people are more tempted to have hatred in their hearts toward other races than white people are; partly because they have been mistreated in the past, no doubt. Colored newspapers do more to stir race hatred than white newspapers. I do not think passing laws would fix the matter. I think Christian people will just have to live right, treat each other right. The matter of whether Negro children and white children go to the same schools is not nearly so important as being sure that we do not have any hate in our hearts or ill-will. I think it is generally not happy for any two races of people to intermarry, whether it is white and black, or white and yellow, or yellow and black. People are happier to marry the people who have the same ideas they have and where there is no fight made over it and nothing to explain. It is best even for a Protestant not to marry a Catholic since different ideas about religion cause such trouble.

Actually, segregation is more obvious on streetcars and trains, and I think that little by little that ought to be abolished as white people and colored people learn to trust each other. I do not believe it ought to be made a matter of a big legal fight with race hatred stirred up on both sides. I see no reason why a col-

13 Wollaston Road, Dorchester, Dorset, England, would welcome correspondence and suggestions from any American evangelist or missionary society or organization requiring a British representative, and would be pleased to act as correspondent, distributor of literature, etc., to secure wider contacts and more prayer support in Britain for their work.

MOVING SOON?

To make sure of getting your Sword promptly, please send advance notice of your change of address directly to us.

At least five weeks before change takes effect let us know:

1. Date you're moving
2. Old Address
3. New Address

If you clip the old mailing label from your Sword and send it in with your change of address, that will help.

Write to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, 214 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, Illinois.

It's possible to have your mailing address corrected by filing your new address with the Post Office, which in turn will notify us. But if a copy of the magazine is sent before that notice reaches us, it means expense for you in forwarding postage.

cities colored people have ten times as many cases of venereal disease per thousand population as do white people. I think that will be changed as colored people get more education and hear better preaching and read better literature. But at the same time I can well understand why white people in such cases do not want their children to go to the same swimming pools as colored children, as long as that difference exists. But for some of the same reasons the same Negro people would not want their children to go to a swimming pool with a very large percentage of diseased white people. It is wrong to suppose that segregation is altogether a matter of race prejudice against colored people.

It is unfortunately true that white people have bribed and prejudiced Negro voters in the south and used them against good causes. That was partly because colored people had less education and were more easily led by bad men. As colored people get more education and develop more good leaders of their own, there will be more of a tendency to allow colored people the same rights and privileges in political matters which white people claim for themselves. Discrimination on racial basis is wrong, but we had as well face the fact that all of us should discriminate in favor of education and morality and so should discriminate against ignorance and dirt and disease and immorality. As colored people improve in character and education and usefulness and as they seek recognition on their merits instead of through communism and political pressure, the difference will tend to fade away.

For the individual Christian the main thing is to be sure he personally treats other people right, that he keeps close to God and keeps any prejudice and hate out of his own heart. Laws cannot fix the heart. The Christian must seek God to help him do that.

Be sure to write me if there is

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FOR YOUR PROTECTION

Every product and service advertised in THE SWORD OF THE LORD is investigated and approved.

"You May Buy With Confidence From Our Advertisers"

For example, in many southern

Dr. Bob Jones Says:

From time to time we have been quoting from letters we received from students and friends. We get so many letters from our own graduates, many of whom are on the mission field and many more living in many parts of the United States. Practically all of these graduates are devout, spiritual, and very active Christians. A large percentage of them are soul winners. There is never a day that we do not have words of appreciation from at least one and sometimes from a great many of "our own boy and girls." We are having now the greatest year we have ever had in this institution. The year 1952 will soon be here. We pray that the people who have contributed during 1951 to our Student Loan Endowment Fund or who have contributed in the past will be very generous in helping us this coming year. I am so constituted that I can't very well give up any real task undertaken for God until the task is finished. I just must raise this Student Loan Endowment Fund that we started about three years ago to raise. We will give you a report before long about how much we have raised up to this time. I am sure that we have approximately \$600,000 of the million dollars either in cash or in liquid assets. I would like to reach approximately \$700,000 by the close of this school year, which will be May 28. So how about sending the Bob Jones University Student Loan Endowment Fund a contribution as a Christmas gift? A gift made to this Fund will be an investment made for time and for eternity. Flowers wither, and people eat candy. Clothes wear out. Even household furniture will someday perish, but money invested in the training of young people

for Christian leadership in the various walks of life will produce results, not only in time but for all eternity.

I have just received a letter from a young woman who graduated in June, 1950. She sent \$50 for the Student Loan Endowment Fund. She had to have help from this Fund when she was in school. This is what she says: "This is just a very small way of saying 'Thanks' to you and to Bob Jones University for all you have meant to me. With every passing day my love for Bob Jones University grows and I cannot thank the Lord enough for giving me the privilege of being a graduate of the greatest university in the world. May this thank offering be put toward the Student Loan Endowment Fund to help other students get a Christian education like it (the Student Loan Endowment Fund) so wonderfully helped me. Thank you."

We shall greatly appreciate hearing from you friends at the earliest possible moment. We wish to thank all of you who have invested in this Fund. Can't you increase the investment with a contribution now? You who have not yet made an investment, please don't put it off any longer. We are counting on you. Now, here is another thing that all of you who love the Lord Jesus Christ can really do for us. You can pray for us. Pray for Bob Jones University; pray for my son who is president, and for me, and for all the wonderful people who are associated with us in this great work. We are counting on you. Please let us hear from you. Thank you and God bless you.

BOB JONES, Founder
Bob Jones University
Greenville, S. C.
(Advertisement)

HELP ANSWER THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Office of the Editor's Secretary,
Usually at 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois
(Temporarily at Harlingen, Texas)

December 1, 1951

Dear Sword of the Lord Reader:

I stayed at the office tonight in order to write to you, and to assort my boss' mail, and to relieve his burden as much as possible by answering the mail which did not require his personal attention. After I answered what I could, there are still eighty-one letters in his folder which require his personal attention. I found many interesting letters, from many states and several foreign countries. At the top of each letter I give a gist of what attention is required—Re: Sword conference in Colorado; thank for FLF offering... Wants good book on creation and history of man; what to do when children are taught man's theories; what about Christians being members of PTA?... Wants you for revival in spring... Wants you for meeting as soon as possible... Wants you in Oregon for city-wide meeting in June... Re: cooperative program among Southern Baptists; what support should he give to denominational schools?... Preacher wants to work with Southern Baptist Convention... Re: Sword conference this December at Indianapolis—shall we have one?... Re: meeting in New Hampshire, you as the evangelist.... Re: your speaking at Chetek conference first week in June.... Wants a pastorate... Re: Christian and War—wants us to publish his mss. against war... Wants to be our book representative in England... Mss. attached for approval or rejection... What about "Latter Rain" movement? Oral Roberts?... How can he raise money to open a Christian book store?... Dr. Bob Jones returns \$50 check for Sword, writes a personal letter... J. Harold Smith can speak at Sword conference, Siloam Springs, next year... Letter from Iowa Bureau Farmer commanding your article on 'Consumer Cooperatives'... Does the Bible say the church is the bride of Christ; does Jesus really mean that He will delay His coming till the gospel is preached in all the world, among all nations?... Is it wrong to preach messages from Sword? Has bad thoughts; needs Christian victory... Wants you to review *Fighting Faith* book.... Your opinion of attached mss.... An infidel... Dr. Oswald Smith wants you to answer these 2 letters, sending carbon to THE KING'S BUSINESS... etc., etc., etc.

The above questions in letters constitute about half of the eighty-one letters; the other half are equally as important. But then I assorted another batch, this time with mingled joy and sorrow—joy that we have the challenge set before us, sorrow that Dr. Rice will not be able to immediately give a "yes" answer to each letter. These letters to which I refer are about the translating and printing of the famous salvation booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" into many languages. Thousands are waiting to read the gospel for the first time through this booklet.

These letters I want to share with you. Yes, the other sixty-six letters are important, and Dr. Rice will answer each one prayerfully and thoroughly, as time permits... but souls are at stake in these fifteen letters, and he will need your help in answering them. Please read each one below, and see how you can help the editor to answer their urgent requests.

Yours for the furtherance of the Gospel,
Viola Walden,
Secretary to Dr. Rice

JAPAN

Missionary Kenneth G. McVety, Chairman of a Missionary Literature Committee working in Japan, wrote November 11 and enclosed a receipt for \$1,713.87, money we sent to Japan for an additional printing of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" This amount,

along with another recent check from us for \$1,134.00, made possible the latest edition of 500,000 copies. He says the booklet is being distributed by almost every evangelical organization in Japan. God gave a remarkable contact for buying paper supplies for this edition and they were able to print it on a much better quality of paper, yet at a much lower cost than previous editions. Mr. McVety further states, "The number of those who have accepted Christ through your booklet has increased during the past few weeks. As you know, the Japanese edition is printed in such a way that most of the replies go to the missionary whose name is stamped on the back of the booklet. Nevertheless, we have had several hundred replies come to us recently and we have set up a follow-up department to deal with them. Each contact receives additional free literature, an announcement of your books which have been published in Japanese, and an announcement of a new interdenominational monthly magazine, and a correspondence Bible study course. In cases where personal attention is needed, this, of course, is given. The responses from the contacts made through your booklet have been very, very encouraging."

Then the last paragraph of the missionary's letter says: "Again let me express our hearty thanks for all you are doing to encourage friends at home to send the gospel to men and women here in Japan. We count it a great privilege to be partners with you in this great task of reaching Japanese people with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ."

We, too, count it a privilege

to get the gospel out in this wide-open territory. As Sword readers know, the following books and booklets by Dr. Rice have been translated and spread widely in Japan—"What Must I Do to Be Saved?" (This last printing brings the total number of copies of this booklet printed in the Japanese language to 1 million, 179 thousand copies!); *Bible Facts About Heaven; The Soul Winner's Fire; What the Bible Says About Hell; and Is Jesus God?* These latter booklets are sold on the streets, and the money goes into a revolving fund to print more. But "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" is given free, the funds being provided by Sword of the Lord readers.

The booklets are beautifully done, and the colored pictured cover on each book is almost exactly the same as the English edition, except that Japanese faces appear on the covers instead of the faces of Americans.



Since the decisions from the Japanese people do not all go to a central office, we have no way of knowing how many thousands have been saved through the ministry of the little booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" However, it was reported to us over a year ago, when the letters all went to a central office, that over 2800 had definitely come out on the Lord's side and had taken their stand with Him, after reading the booklet. We know that thousands more have read the message of salvation through this gospel tract and have turned to Christ.

A returned missionary, Dr. Fred Jarvis, spoke at the Sword of the Lord conferences this summer and told what a great work was being done through the booklets. Also he showed movies of gospel street meetings. How eagerly those dear ones in darkness were seeking the light! People were kneeling in downtown streets and accepting Christ as their Saviour as the gospel was being preached there by faithful missionaries. Then other pictures showed great crowds of thousands who had gathered and were pushing to get a gospel booklet from a missionary! "And never a one is thrown down," Dr. Jarvis reported. In one picture a gospel truck was going down the road giving gospel booklets. We saw people in the fields running to the roads and snatching them as if they were food for the body. Another movie showed a truck carrying the larger booklets, and they were being bought eagerly on the streets. How good it was to see among them Dr. Rice's booklets mentioned above!

Below is an article which appeared in *The Missionary Broad-*

Sanctification By The Holy Spirit: Internal

ONE OF A SERIES OF BIBLE TEACHING ARTICLES ON "HOLINESS: THE FALSE AND THE TRUE," BY THE LATE DR. H. A. IRONSIDE, LONG PASTOR OF MOODY MEMORIAL CHURCH, CHICAGO.

In closing the last chapter I remarked that sanctification is both absolute and progressive. Absolute sanctification is by the one offering of Christ on the cross, and will be treated of further on. Progressive sanctification is looked at in two ways: it is by the Spirit and by the Word.

It may help some to put it in this way:

Sanctification by the Spirit is INTERNAL. It is an experience within the believer.

Sanctification by the blood of Christ is ETERNAL. It is not an experience; it is *positional*; it has to do with the new place in God's eternal favor occupied by every believer—an unchanging and unchangeable position, to which de-filement can never attach, in God's estimation.

Sanctification by the Word of God refers to the believer's outward walk and ways. It is the manifest result of sanctification by the Spirit, and goes on progressively all through life.

I desire to group together four scriptures which refer to the first important aspect above men-

caster, and written by Missionary Kenneth G. McVety:

Gospel Literature for Japan's Masses

"A natural—as they would say—evangelizing Japan with printed tracts and books. Eighty-three million people using one language, the most literate people on earth, emerging from a spiritual vacuum.

If Japan today presents the greatest missionary challenge in history, then Christian literature in Japan should be one of our chief concerns.

Everywhere we go in Japan we find people reading. On the unbelievably crowded trains almost everyone has a book or newspaper in his hands. Waiting at a bus stop or before an entertainment house, the people read while they wait. And as we walk mile after mile past tiny open shops or along narrow winding lanes between the quaint oriental homes, people are seen squatting on their rice-mat floors, reading... reading... READING! Every neighborhood has several news-stands and bookstores, pouring out a flood of cheap literature to meet the seemingly insatiable thirst. Almost 100 per cent of the Japanese adults can read, and they are not only ABLE, they are ANXIOUS to read.

"What a challenge! With the greatest message ever seen on a printed page—the story of Calvary love, with a great God who has pledged His word to make that message effective, with a growing band of consecrated missionaries and native workers to carry the good news, and with a nation ready to accept what we have to offer—how pressing is the challenge to give Japan the gospel through Christian literature!

"With this vision of a reading nation before them and with the instruction 'Go ye into all the world... ringing in their ears, our TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) Literature Committee has been seeking to fill this pressing need. In the past few months, 43,000 books and several

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Some of Dr. Rice's Gospel Booklets issued by the Literature Committee of the Evangelical Alliance Mission in Japan

tioned. Doctrinally, perhaps, I should take up sanctification by blood first; but experimentally the Spirit's work precedes the knowledge of the other.

In I Corinthians 6:9, 10 we read of a host of sinful characters who shall not inherit the kingdom of God. The 11th verse immediately adds, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

Again, in II Thessalonians 2:13 we read, "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."

Closely linked with this is the second verse of the opening chapter of I Peter: "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ."

The fourth verse is Romans 15:16: "That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost."

In all these passages it is of the utmost importance, in order to rightly apprehend the truth intended to be conveyed, to observe that sanctification by the Spirit is treated as the first beginnings of God's work in the souls of men, leading to the full knowledge of justification through faith in the blood-sprinkling of Jesus Christ.

Far from being "the second blessing," subsequent to justification, it is a work apart from which none ever would be saved. That this may be made plain to the thoughtful reader, I purpose a careful analysis of each verse quoted.

The Corinthians had been characterized by the common sins of men. They had, like the Ephesians (chap. 2:1-5), "walked according to the course of this age," lured on by that unholy "spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience." But a great change had taken place in them. Old affections and desires had been superseded by new and holy longings. The wicked life had been exchanged for one in which the pursuit after godliness was characteristic. What had wrought this change? Three expressions are used to convey the fulness of it. They had been "washed, sanctified, and justified"—and all "in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."

Objective and subjective are here closely linked together. The work and character of the Lord Jesus had been presented as set forth in the gospel. He alone was the Saviour of sinners. But in the application of that salvation to men there is necessarily the subjective side. Men are unclean because of sin, and must be "washed." The "washing of water by the word" (of Eph. 5:25, 26) is clearly alluded to. The Word of God lays hold on the conscience, and men are awakened to see the folly and wickedness of their lives—away from God, and walking in darkness. This is the beginning of a moral washing that goes on all through the believer's life, and of which I hope to treat more fully later on.

But now, observe carefully—the same Word of God comes to all men, but the same effect is not produced in all. Christ and His

(Continued on page 8)

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Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

Duluth, Minnesota, experienced its greatest spiritual awakening since the Billy Sunday Campaign in 1918 when the Christ for Greater Duluth crusade, headed by Dr. Bob Cook of Youth for Christ International, held sway for 15 days from November 4-18.

The Duluth Curling club, seating 5000, was filled to capacity on the two final Sunday nights. The nightly average attendance was around 2000. The 35 cooperating churches cancelled Sunday evening services for three straight weeks to support the crusade. Total decisions cards signed during the meeting reached 668, with 355 of these for salvation.

Under Cook's "judgment and repentance" preaching, Duluth people moved God-ward in great numbers. Two entire families, of 8 and 6, professed faith in Christ during the campaign. Parents joined each other at the front, later joined by their children.

Scores of high school and college age youth made decisions. Interest was shown in the formulation of several high school Bible Clubs as a result of the crusade.

Teamed with Cook in the crusade were Evon Hedley, of Brantford, Ontario, Canada, associate evangelist; Clayton Booth of Seattle, Washington, soloist and songwriter; and Bob Haag, organist, from Des Moines, Iowa.

For Cook it was only his second citywide campaign in his four years as head of YFC International. The previous one was in San Diego in 1949. In the words of General Chairman, Gerald R. Henning and YFC Director Art Mattson, "If only every city could have a campaign like this!"

My good friend, Evangelist Louis Wunneburger of P. O. Box 510, Austin, Texas, closed a meeting November 18 with the First Baptist Church, Independence, Missouri. Many were saved in this campaign who had been the object of prayer for long years. The evangelist reports 68 professions of faith, with 8 others transferring their membership by letter, and one surrendering for special service.

Rev. Raymond Farmer, pastor of the Methodist Church, Arno, Virginia, writes about a blessed revival with Rev. Jim Singleton of 329 Elizabeth Street, Key West, Florida. The pastor reports overflow crowds, and decisions almost every night. Whole families were brought to the Lord. And many were saved in house-to-house visitation. The pastor says: "Evangelist Singleton is a fearless, dynamic preacher of the gospel, and I would heartily recommend him to any church desiring an evangelistic campaign."

We are always happy to have good words from pastors reporting on revival campaigns. Rev. Earl F. Buffum of Muir, Michigan, and his church were blessed under the evangelistic ministry of Eddie Wagner and songwriter, James Stoutsborough, in a two-week revival. Though the pastor does not give the total number of visible results, yet he does say that a good number made profession of faith in Christ and were taken into the church.

The First Baptist Church of Manchester, Iowa, Rev. A. J. Turner, pastor, experienced a time of revival blessing during the recent series of meetings with Evangelist Wagner and Jim Stoutsborough. There were 31 reported conversions and 10 rededications. Evangelist Wagner reports the meetings were marked by the interest the Christians took in going after the unsaved. There were well over 100 decisions in the lives of Christians.

The Wagner—Stoutsborough team were in the Broad Street Baptist Church of Washington, Pennsylvania, Rev. T. Fred Wolfe, pastor. The evangelist reports

great interest from the very beginning and it continued throughout the meetings. There were 96 conversions during the campaign, 34 young people dedicated their lives for full-time service, and 12 family altars were established. Large crowds attended night after night.

Evangelist James Threlfall reports a meeting held in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Trilala, Illinois. He remarks, "I have been in meetings where there have been more results, but not any greater spirit of revival. Many decisions were made that will truly change the lives of many in that community . . ." There were 10 conversions, 10 rededications, and 5 family altars established during the revival.

There were 8 conversions and 13 rededications under his ministry at Goodells Baptist Church, Goodells, Michigan.

Evangelist J. H. Melton recently held a meeting in the two churches — Factoryville Bible Church and Leonidas Community Church, Leonidas, Michigan, which are pastored by Rev. Ladoit Stevens, former wholesale manager at Sword of the Lord Publishers. Brother Melton reports 25 conversions; some started family altars, others started winning souls.

Then Evangelist Melton was in the First Baptist Church, Dupo, Illinois, where there were 22 conversions; and in the Immanuel Baptist Church, Temple, Texas. Sixteen conversions were recorded in this meeting.

It is always a joy to have fellowship with Evangelist Ray Cutchin, former sales manager at Sword of the Lord Publishers. The Lord called him out of the Sword office, prepared him at Bob Jones University, and he is now in full-time evangelistic work, working with Sword Staff of Evangelists. He was in and out of the Sword office during his recent revival at Troy Bible Church, Joliet, Illinois. There were 30 conversions, 4 rededications, during this revival effort.

Rev. Frank Harpell, assisted in music by his wife, has just concluded a two week's revival at Bethel Baptist Church, Harvey, North Dakota. The pastor learned about their services through THE SWORD OF THE LORD. He and his church were blessed by the campaign, and he says: "Although another church sponsored a campaign at the same time, in this town of 2300, we had good crowds and at times the building was taxed to capacity, with chairs in the aisles. Brother Harpell's messages were thoroughly Scriptural. The Christians were greatly challenged and over 20 accepted Christ as Saviour. Thank you for recommending the Harpells in your paper."

Dr. Bob Jones, Jr., president of Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina, recently spent 6 days in the First Presbyterian Church at Grand Junction, Colorado. The pastor, Rev. C. A. Burkholder, writes in most glowing terms of the happy and far-reaching revival in that brief time. Brother Burkholder says:

"Early in the past summer Dr. Bob Jones, Jr., agreed to hold evangelistic services in the First Presbyterian Church, Grand Junction, Colorado. Much credit was due Mr. Arnold Hickok, Youth Director in this Church, a former student of Bob Jones University, for persuading Dr. Bob Jones, Jr., to agree to preach in Grand Junction. For months prayer groups met to plead for a mighty revival. Two weeks prior to the meetings, to run November 6th through the 11th, an intensive advertising campaign was launched, including newspaper, radio, handbills, cards tacked on telegraph poles on high-

ways leading into this city. Display cards were placed in windows of various places of business. A large display board was erected on the church lawn and illuminated at night for two weeks.

"Almost from the first meeting it was manifest that people of all faiths were drawn to the meetings. Several carloads of people on various nights came from distances as far as 140 miles to hear Dr. Bob. People said they have never been in a meeting in this area where they could feel the power of the Holy Spirit. Some churches closed their prayer meetings so their people could attend these meetings. The last night several churches closed—voluntarily—so pastor and flock could hear the final message. Thirty-three members of the First Presbyterian Church were led to either make new decisions for Christ or come forward to dedicate their lives to Him, some for full service. Twelve decisions for Christ, seeking church membership, were made. At least 15 more made decisions to unite with other churches. Before the meetings closed, voices were heard demanding that steps be taken with a view of having Dr. Bob back in a year to hold a union campaign of at least two weeks in this city. Grand Junction is the strategic center of the Western Slope. A revival here in a year will have a mighty influence on the western slope for Christ. Arnold Hickok, talented singer and chorus leader, had charge of the music. An average of 500-600 filled the church for the closing days of the meetings. A tape recording of Dr. Bob's final sermon was made and given free by one of our local radio stations. By popular demand, it was repeated November 18th. God be praised for the powerful preaching of Dr. Bob under the unction of the Holy Spirit, as he lifted up Christ crucified."

The side of the oppressed and wronged and against injustice wherever it is found. The toiling masses pull on the heartstrings of Jesus. "I have compassion on the multitude" is His changeless attitude.

Isaiah prophetically proclaimed of Him: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows" (Isa. 53:4), "Took our infirmities and bare our diseases," the American Standard Version translates it. His supreme apologetic to despondent, imprisoned John the Baptist was, "The blind receive sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the gospel preached to them." He touched lepers and they were cleansed. He spoke to dead bodies and they arose. He commanded evil spirits and they fled; anointed blind eyes and they saw; touched deaf ears and they heard.

The power of Jesus will free the slaves of toil and make them citizens of His kingdom. One has seen Mexican women bearing burdens of merchandise on their backs as they walked in a train of donkeys, similarly laden. That was in a nation eighty-five per cent illiterate, where the true gospel has never been preached. Wherever ceremony, and formality, and superstition rule, there is poverty, ignorance and despair. Where the crucifix displaces the cross, and the confessional is substituted for repentance and

The work of Jesus does not overlook men's physical condition. During most of the world's history the masses have been the pawns, and slaves of the classes. Nebuchadnezzar, Ahasuerus, the Pharaohs, Cyrus, the Roman emperors and other rulers cared little about the welfare of the peasant class. The days of feudalism were broken by increase of intelligence and by the perfecting of implements of war. The cries of oppressed laborers in Egyptian brick fields going up to God aroused His mercy and justice to throw off their bondage. In our country today labor has come into its own and is sometimes guilty of excesses and injustice just as reprehensible as the tyranny of capitalism, but God is always on

My Christmas Gift List

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor
214 W. Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

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There is More Space on the Next Page

The Great Invitation

(Continued from page 1)
cloud of anger against sin have overpassed.

The second thing about the context of this great invitation is Christ's relation to the Father. "All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no one knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him" (Matt. 11:27). That immediately precedes the great invitation.

God has put all things in His hands, has made Him the one mediator between Himself and men, has closed every road, lane and alley of approach to God save through Jesus. Nobody understands the Son and can fully explain the Son save the Father, and no one knows the Father save the Son. We shall never understand who and what God is except through Christ. Neither can we comprehend Christ save as we are taught by the Spirit. When Peter confessed Him as the Messiah, Jesus said: "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 16:17).

The character and power and saving knowledge of Christ the Messiah is a revelation from God to the hearts of men. Now the one who understands God perfectly gives you this great invitation to come to Him, and the Father who knows the Son sends the invitation through Him.

The work of Jesus does not overlook men's physical condition. During most of the world's history the masses have been the pawns, and slaves of the classes. Nebuchadnezzar, Ahasuerus, the Pharaohs, Cyrus, the Roman emperors and other rulers cared little about the welfare of the peasant class. The days of feudalism were broken by increase of intelligence and by the perfecting of implements of war. The cries of oppressed laborers in Egyptian brick fields going up to God aroused His mercy and justice to throw off their bondage. In our country today labor has come into its own and is sometimes guilty of excesses and injustice just as reprehensible as the tyranny of capitalism, but God is always on

confession to God, there is darkness and spiritual destitution.

How Jesus longs to help all

(Continued on page 5)

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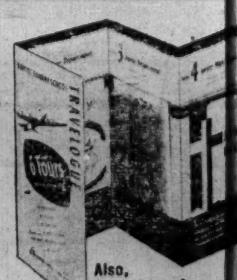
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The Great Invitation

(Continued from page 4)

men! He touches a leper and says: "I will, be thou clean." "What do you want, Bartimaeus?" is forerunner to perfect vision. "Lazarus, come forth," brings alive the dead man, back to his waiting, weeping sisters. "Talitha Cumi" changes the home of Jairus from a death chamber into a temple of unspeakable joy because the little girl lives again

to bless her home. "And he came nigh and touched the bier and said, Young man, arise" and a whole town glorified God when the only son of a widowed mother was given back to her alive by our miracle-working Saviour. He had compassion on a leper and healed him. He had compassion on the widow of Nain and gave her back her son. He had compassion on the multitude when He saw them fainting and hungry, and then fed them. He had compassion on Jerusalem, the doomed city, and wept over it. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matt 23:37).

A Yoke We Cannot Bear

"Come unto me all who toil" must, however, mean much more than a promise to relieve physical distress. Grinding like Samson at the wheel of sin is worse than toiling for bread. Toiling in trying to win salvation is a yoke which neither we nor our fathers were able to bear, as Peter saw it. "What must we do that we may work the works of God?" was a favored formula of the legalists. "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." They thought they must do many works to be saved, must fulfil all the law, plus the mountains of tradition their teach-

A Daring Promise

What a daring promise He makes—"Come... and I will give you rest!" If I said that, you would say I am a fool. If you said it, I would say you are crazy. If Jesus was only a man, He was a disgusting egotist. What mean His critics and detractors who say He is not God? Can a man raise the dead? Can a man infallibly read the thoughts of your mind? Can a man still the tempest and make the sea obey him? He appealed to His works as a proof of His divinity. "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works' sake" (John 14:11). You cannot deny His resurrection without denying all laws of evidence. You cannot explain His personality without reaching a concept of Godhead. You cannot assent to the fact that His gospel changed the people of the New Hebrides Islands from cannibals to faithful Christians, and

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THE SWORD OF THE LORD

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By Grace Rice MacMullen, Circulation Manager

Last year, you had Christmas worries! You planned a perfect gift—but it was too expensive. You bought a gift that seemed right, but it didn't last a month. You got something you KNEW was needed, and then found it was a duplicate. You thought it was exactly the right gift—but now you know it's never been used. You wound up in such a flurry of last-minute details—shopping, running to the post office, wrapping—that you couldn't enjoy Christmas.

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Evangelist John R. Rice, THE SWORD OF THE LORD carries regular messages by the greatest soul-winners of the past and of today. There are answers to Bible questions, articles on Christian living, news of revival efforts everywhere. It's a spiritual tonic—a twelve-page feast—a weekly messenger of blessing!

As a time-saver, it's wonderful! Talk about easy—all you have to do is fill in the blank with the names and addresses of your friends—those who need the weekly inspiration and blessing of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Get that list off to us, right away, and your Christmas worries are solved.

No guessing... No hunting... No standing in line at the post office... And it's a reminder to your friends of your affectionate thoughtfulness, your concern for their spiritual welfare, every seven days!

We send a beautiful gift card with your name signed in harmonizing ink. For one whole year you don't do anything—just pray that the Lord will bless the paper as it goes into the home of your friend. Just think for a moment of all those on your Christmas list who would really rather have THE SWORD OF THE LORD for a year

then disallow the cause of such a transformation. You cannot recognize a faith that produced the choice of Moses, promoted the exodus from Egypt, that razed the walls of Jericho, that subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, and quenched the violence of fire, without recognizing a supernatural power which wrought in the heart of such heroes. It is neither sense nor scientific to accept well-attested facts and deny to them an adequate cause. If the Bible is not true, then write a better one and prove it. If you are equal to Jesus, get yourself crucified and rise from the dead to establish your claim. If the truth of Christ does not transform both individuals and nations, then let somebody invent a system of truth that will.

Do you see the picture in this invitation? The Lord stands with anxious face and gleaming eyes looking on the moiling masses who faint and fall under the burden of sin. He stretches out His healing hands and says: "Hither, to me and I will give you rest." You don't have rest now. The world will not give you rest. The law cannot give you rest. Good works will not give you rest. Money cannot give you rest. The Rabbis, and Scribes, and Pharisees will not and cannot give you rest. All their preachments about the "traditions of the elders" are profitless to your souls. But "I will give you rest" cannot fail to help and save. How could a man have the assumption and folly to say it? Who but God has the mercy and majesty both to say and perform it? Only an impostor or a God can issue such an invitation.

"Take My Yoke"

A yoke imposes authority and offers opportunity for service. Those who come to Christ must submit to His righteous rule. But this is not arbitrary. It is right and pleasant in the very nature of things. Every human is ruled by some power or person; by some ideal or ideology. If one's over-

than anything you've thought of for them....
Maybe you should send it to Mother and Dad....
A boy in service....
To son or daughter, niece or nephew at college, maybe....
Business friends? Next door neighbors?
What about cousins...the folks you met last summer?

Certainly your favorite minister, your missionary friends who welcome Christian reading with such delight....
Aunts and uncles, a favorite family....
Your Sunday School teacher....

Only you can decide which names on your list should have THE SWORD OF THE LORD. But this much is certain—for some names on your list, nothing else will be quite as suitable, quite as fitting, quite as welcome, quite as exactly right—as THE SWORD OF THE LORD. We know THE SWORD OF THE LORD does bring blessing.

Those who received Christmas gift subscriptions last year have written us scores of glowing letters like these:

"I feel I should write and tell you how much I've enjoyed your paper. Being a soldier overseas, I have been comforted by it more than I can tell."

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"I don't know who is sending me THE SWORD OF THE LORD, but it is the grandest religious paper I get or have ever had."

"My sister sent it to me as a gift and I think it is the most wonderful gift I could have gotten. It fills my soul with each precious sermon. My husband and I enjoy it more than any paper we've ever received!"

We really ought to have your instructions soon now, in order to announce your gift on that beautiful gift card, and get that big Christmas issue off to them before Christmas day.

Make this the year of

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lord is base, his rule will be debasing. If your master is mammon, he will make you a miser. If the world enslaves you, you can be only a worldling. If lust is king, his subjects will be libertines. But if Christ rules us, He will make us Christ-like. The only true freedom is voluntary bondage to Jesus. The only perfect realization of the true self is attained in complete abnegation of self and perfect commitment to Him who is the creator of our self.

He says: "Take my yoke and learn from me." It is not learn of me, but from me. To be sure we constantly learn more of Him, about Him and to know Him better, but here He is presenting Himself as our teacher, our guide and authority. Our ideals are to stem from Him and not from the flesh and the "Zeit Geist," the spirit of the time. We must not accept Him as Saviour and reject Him as Lord. Indeed, it is impossible truly to accept Him as Saviour and deny His authority—"Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say?" He scorns the idea of being a Saviour and not a King also.

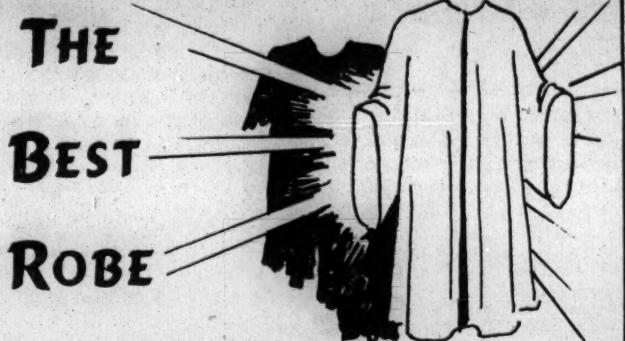
What May We Learn?

What can we learn from such a Teacher? Can we not learn how unlike Him we are, how deep and adamant (untamable) are our sins? We may learn the flesh is hopelessly corrupt, condemned, and doomed; that nothing but daily crucifixion of the mind and purpose of the Lord. We may learn that to hate is hellish, but to love is liberation and life everlasting. We may learn to master our bodies and possess our souls in quietness because our minds are stayed on

(Continued on page 9)

Strange Short Stories

By Dr. Walter L. Wilson



Lk. 15:22

Since our Lord called this the best robe, it must be in contrast with other robes which are not so good. We will therefore consider other robes in their relationship to this robe and see what our Lord may have meant by this peculiar and interesting statement.

This robe is the best robe BECAUSE IT IS FREE. All other garments must be purchased. Some robes are quite inexpensive, while those which are worn by the king and queen at their coronation are lavishly expensive. The robe of righteousness which the father gave to his prodigal son was a gift to his boy. No one can purchase this robe. It is the free gift of God. It is this robe referred to in Isaiah 61:10. It was made in Heaven, and is the gift of Heaven's King as were the wedding robes described in Matthew 22:10 and 11. No religion on earth can make such a robe. No man on earth has the right or the power to sell this robe.

It is the best robe BECAUSE IT MAY BE WORN BEYOND THE GRAVE. All other robes must be left behind. How often the widow is called upon to dispose of the garments left by her companion at his death. One robe accompanies him to the grave. All the others must be disposed of to relatives and friends who remain behind. This BEST ROBE is received by the believer when he trusts his soul to Jesus Christ and he wears it through life, through death, and through eternity. It is the right robe for the Royal Court of Glory. In this robe one may have access to the throne room of God.

It is the best robe BECAUSE IT ALWAYS IS SUITABLE FOR THE OCCASION. A bathing suit would be out of place in the pulpit. A wedding dress would hardly be the style for a funeral. A diver's suit would not be suitable for the race track. A tuxedo would hardly be serviceable in a coal mine. This robe of righteousness, however, which is called the best robe, is in style everywhere. It may be worn on the beach, or in the court of law. It is appropriate in school and in the store. It is quite "in place" at a wedding or at a funeral. It should be worn always at every place, on every occasion.

It is the best robe BECAUSE IT ALWAYS FITS. Other robes need to be changed with the changing years. Baby dresses give way to those of a more mature sort. Knee breeches give way to long pants. Those who are slender may become portly and need a change both of style and dimensions in their garments. Those who are short may grow taller and the robe must be lengthened. This lovely robe of righteousness, the gift of God, needs no alterations. It may be received in youth and worn till the gray hairs appear. It always fits, no matter what other changes take place.

It is the best robe BECAUSE IT IS ALWAYS IN STYLE. There was a day when hoop skirts were worn by society matrons. Who wants a hoop skirt now? Balloon sleeves were once the height of fashion but no one would wear them now. Cotton clothes were once the style but now they can hardly be found in the stores. Styles change with the generations but the style of this best robe never alters. It is the same now as when it was first given by Christ. It was worn in Paul's

day, in the days of the Wesleys; it was worn by John Knox and by Spurgeon. Through the centuries this robe of righteousness has remained unchanged.

It is the best robe BECAUSE IT NEVER NEEDS REPAIRS. Most garments show the wear and tear of daily use. The sleeves become frayed, the button holes become raveled. The collar becomes soiled and worn. Many washings fade the colors. The garment wears through at the places where it is most rubbed. The cloth becomes tender with age and hard service. It is not so with the best robe. It comes from Heaven and is maintained by Heaven. Those wear it best who love it most. Prayer, Bible reading, and Christian fellowship keep it bright, neat and fresh.

It is the best robe BECAUSE OF ITS GREAT COST. All robes of human manufacturers are produced at a price, but this robe of righteousness, this Best Robe, is priceless. Most other robes are obtained with no suffering. The sheep is sheared. The cotton is picked. The silk is gathered. This Best Robe has come from the terrible suffering of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Its warp and its woof are from Calvary. It is dyed with the precious blood of Christ. It is a product of His death on the Cross. It cost Him His throne in Glory, the song of the angels, the adoration of the heavenly hosts. He willingly left it all to be an outcast. Through His sacrifice we receive this wonderful coat, this Best Robe.

It is the best robe BECAUSE NO ONE CAN TAKE IT FROM YOU. Sisters borrow each other's dresses. Brothers borrow each other's coats. Sons borrow the garments of their father. Just when you want your best garment for the party some member of the family has taken it and left for some other function. No one can take this robe from you. You wear it day and night. You wear it at work and at play. You wear it Sundays and holidays as well as every other day in the week. It is your own to have and to hold forever. It is your private property. It is your sacred treasure. Satan himself cannot take it from you.

It is the best robe BECAUSE IT IS ALWAYS BECOMING. Some folks cannot wear blue. Others look terrible in red. Some prefer green. Whoever you are, whatever color your hair may be, or your eyes, this robe will beautify you. Your body may not be attractive. Your nose may be too large or your chin may recede too much or you may have a double chin. It matters not what your physical appearance may be. This robe of Heaven, this Best Robe will be exactly the right robe for you. If you will accept Jesus Christ by faith just now, He will clothe you with it and you will be fitted for His presence.

(The above is one of thirty-three chapters in the book, STRANGE SHORT STORIES BY THE DOCTOR, 123 pages, paper bound, which may be purchased for 75c from Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois.)

Help Answer the Editor's Mail!

(Continued from page 3)

hundreds of thousands of tracts have been printed. An additional 12,000 books will be completed soon. Some of the new titles in Japanese are "The Only Way," by Oswald J. Smith, "So Great Salvation," by J. F. Strombeck, "Heaven, Hell, and The Soul-Winner's Fire," by John R. Rice, "The Scripture Truth Course," by James M. Gray, and "Thinking with God," by Norman H. Camp.

"The aim of this work has been to put effective, scriptural literature within easy reach of everyone—especially the common people. The books have been translated into simple and readable Japanese by highly qualified men. The committee has handled them on a non-profit basis, keeping the prices down to the level of the common pocketbook. The response has been encouraging indeed.

Three of the titles have been almost sold out and must be reprinted soon. Reports come to us frequently of souls saved and believers blessed through reading this vital Christian literature.

"We gratefully acknowledge the invaluable assistance given by the authors and many other Christian friends in financing the initial publishing of many of these books.

"Will you share with us the burden of prayer for Japan in this crucial hour? And remember especially the challenge of evangelical literature in this needy land?"

From time to time you have read in THE SWORD OF THE LORD letters from those who have been won to Christ through "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" Here is a letter in Dr. Rice's mail now, from a Japanese woman who has found Christ through the booklet. Read it and rejoice with us. This is what you are helping make possible by your gifts to the Free Literature Fund:

"198 Shimbanba Cho
"Shinjo Shi Yamagata Ken

"Thank you very much. After I read the tract, 'WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?' I understood everything. Some Christian had advised me to read the Bible and go to church but I could not understand everything. But now I know I am a sinner and need to be saved and to be saved is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Now that I know there is no one who can save this sinful person but Jesus Christ, I trust in Him and tell Him all about my troubles when I pray. Oh, God has saved me, this sinful person, and all troubles are gone by His blessing. I have experienced this myself and am so thankful. I feel so comforted, like a baby in his mother's arms.

"I am so happy all the time and read the Bible which is the Word of God, go to church with my husband and six-year-old child. I am happy to send you my decision slip."

(Signed) Motoe Saito

In Dr. Rice's mail, awaiting an answer, is a letter from the Mariners' Fellowship Center, San Pedro, California, with this request: "Japan is a sea-faring nation, and we can do much through the Merchant Sailor. I wish you would pray about recommending a good size grant of your tract in Japanese. I could use several thousand for we are having from three to ten ships a week calling at this port. While I am asking, I would say that French, Spanish, and Norwegian would be welcome."

Something will have to be done about this request. Whenever it was humanly possible to supply the demand, Dr. Rice has never turned down a request. "By faith" he goes ahead; and our good Sword of the Lord family has always rallied to the need. Praise God for you!

Since December, 1949, we have been enabled, by your gifts to send to Japan \$9,166.22 for the trans-

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but it was anyway a very great blessing to me... I would like to translate your tract into Italian and to distribute it to my friends and school-fellows. I believe very much in giving out Scriptures and printed tracts because I have personally experienced their usefulness.

"I was a Catholic in my childhood, till sixteen; not very warm Catholic, but only a sincere boy longing to love and worship God. But what I was taught to do for God I did not like. When I grew older and reasoned more I began to realize that my religion was not, for the most part, very different from every other religion: there were priests, sacrifices, services, things to do or not to do, but one thing was lacking—God. Then my studies, my friends, and my own ideas brought me to believe there was no God but that only some stupid men believed and others also intelligent, but not honest, professed a faith but used it only to further their own purposes. And I fell down in the pit of sin, deeper and deeper. All that I saw, the war, too, perhaps—all these things caused me to go further from God.

"During my fall something came into my sad, sorrowful, unglad heart: the desire to read the Bible, just the book on which many believed and which many others had used to their ends. I asked my mother to present me with a Bible, a Catholic one and I began to read. This happened in the year 1947. First I read it curiously, just trying to find what men see in it; then I was interested; then I was amazed; then shocked; then I admired it... I noticed with surprise that I did not any more read curiously, but hungrily. When I read the Gospels that I had read when a child, and heard of Jesus and His sacrifice, I was completely overwhelmed. I do not know when but there was a time when I bowed down my head and cried: I accepted the Lord as my God, and His Son, Jesus, as my Redeemer. This was at Christmas time, in 1950. From

(Continued on page 7)

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Help Answer the Editor's Mail!

(Continued from page 6)

thence I've grown in the love of God; I soon searched the fellowship with other Christians. I began to go to services. I have now nearly finished to read my Bible the second time and I am reading Scriptural tracts too. My desire is to grow more and more in the Lord and I hope and pray Christ will give me strength and light to walk in His way. Now that I'm saved, I long to help others to find this precious Saviour. May God help me in my work and witness..."

(Signed) Luciano Petrucci

A soul, a Catholic in far-off Italy, was hungry for God and found Him. Now He wants to help others. Yes, there are hungry hearts even in Italy.

Do you earnestly pray for God to send missionaries to these lands to tell these dear souls in darkness about Christ? Sure...we all do that. That's easy. But, have you asked God what part you could have in reaching those in foreign fields who have never heard the gospel? I trust God will put a burden on your heart to see what a responsibility we all have in seeing that others get the gospel. Dr. Rice will need wisdom from God about how to answer this request. It is awfully hard to say "no" to such earnest pleadings! Perhaps one of you would like to take this request as your missionary project.

Pray about it, then let Dr. Rice hear from you. This might mean the salvation of many in that country. Oh, may God help us to keep throwing the Lifeline to these hungry hearts while the door is wide open!

PORUGAL

Another letter, in the stack I mentioned, was from Leiria, Portugal. Attached to the letter is an uncorrected first copy of Dr. Rice's booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" which is being printed in Portugal by the "Word of Life Publications." The picture on the cover is the same as the English edition, but of course the title reads—

Que hei-de eu Raser para me salvar?

Rev. Samuel D. Faircloth, Corresponding Secretary for America, stationed in Portugal, writes:

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We Must Not Fail

By Louis Wunneburger

"For the love of Christ constraineth us" (2 Cor. 5:14).

This generation is fast passing off the scene of action. If we do not reach it for Christ, who will? Is it possible for some future generations to discharge the duties of this one? God will require of us that which He has committed to our trust. His commission is, "Occupy until I come."

What generation in world's history has ever enjoyed such a marvellous opportunity as we have? Never has the world been better known to all. Never has its needs been more demanding. Never has a generation had greater ability to reach its own for Christ than ours.

From some unknown source I have copied the following and pass it on to you, hoping it will be helpful. Because of (1) the infinite need of men without Christ; (2) the possibilities of those of every race taking Christ as Lord; (3) the command of our Lord, together with the added force that it has accumulated as a result of 20 centuries of discovering open doors; (4) the shameful neglect of the previous generations; (5) the impending crisis now upon us; (6) the opportunity for a greatly accelerated movement NOW; (7) the constraining memories of the cross of Christ and the love wherewith He loved us, we must not fail. We must do our utmost to reach our generation for Christ.

Hindus. One young man travelled

to different countries. My heart is burdened.

"I am a young preacher; make \$150.00 a month. I have lots of obligations and expenses. Many times our meals are just a little thicker than water; a few times

we didn't have any. I thank the Lord that He has always had something for my baby girl to eat, though. I really can't afford to send this money, but that's when the Lord really blesses you—when you give after you can't afford to give, the Word says.

"I'm enclosing \$6.00 to be used for printing the 'WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?' tracts in those different languages. The Lord is so kind and good. He takes care of our every need."

"I thank the Lord for the work He is doing through you."

"A brother in Christ,"
Abner J. (Abe) Simon Henderson, Texas

This is sacrificial giving which God will bless!

Dr. Rice warned me several pages back that I would have to stop this, or continue it later. So in the next article I will quote some wonderful letters from those who have been saved through the booklet in America. Meantime, please pray that God may supply the needs, and ask Him what part you should have in spreading the gospel in foreign lands.

In sending gifts to the Free Literature Fund, mark it, "For Free Literature" and mail to either Dr. John R. Rice or Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois. God bless you!

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During December we are urging readers of THE SWORD OF THE LORD who can do so to advance their subscriptions a full 4 years at the remarkable rate of \$5. Whether your subscription expired soon or sometime in the future, we think it would be greatly to your advantage, as well as to ourselves, to send \$5 and advance your subscription 4 full years beyond the present expiration date. For instance, if your subscription now expires in July 1952, you could advance it to July 1956 by simply sending \$5 for a 4-year subscription. This offer is good only when the subscription goes 4 years to one person, either new or renewal, and in the United States or our armed services. Canadian and foreign subscriptions, usually \$2.50 a year, may be had for 4 years for \$7. Here are our reasons for making this offer:

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Sanctification

(Continued from page 3)

cross is preached to an audience of a hundred unconverted men. One remains, broken-hearted over his sins and seeking peace with God, while ninety and nine go away untouched. Why the difference? The Holy Spirit gives power to the Word, plowing up the conscience in the case of every one truly converted, and such a one is separated, set apart by a divine work within, from the indifferent multitude to which he once belonged. It is here that sanctification of the Spirit applies. It may be some time ere he finds true peace with God; but he is never again a careless sinner. The Holy Spirit has laid hold of him for salvation. This is beautifully illustrated in the first few verses of our Bibles. The world created in perfection (see Isa. 45:18) in verse 1, is described as fallen into a chaotic condition in verse 2. "Without form and void," and covered with a mantle of darkness: what a picture of fallen man away from God! His soul a moral chaos, his understanding darkened, his mind and conscience defiled, he is in very deed dead in trespasses and sins; "alienated and an enemy in his mind by wicked works." All this the ruined earth may well speak of.

But God is going to remake that world. It shall yet become a dwelling-place for man, a fit home for him during the ages of time. How does He go about it? The first great agent is the Spirit; the second, the Word. "The Spirit of God moved [or brooded] upon the waters." Hovering over that scene of desolation, the Holy Spirit brooded; and then the Word of power went forth. "God said, Let light be: and light was." And so in the salvation of fallen man—the Spirit and the Word must act. The brooding-time comes first. The Holy Spirit quickens through the message proclaimed. He awakens men, and gives them a desire to know Christ and to be delivered from sin's power and saved from its judgement. After this brooding season, or as a result of it, the heart is opened to the gospel in its fulness; and, being believed, the light shines in and the darkness is dissipated. "God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (II Cor. 4:6). Thus are we who believe no longer children of the night, nor of darkness, but of the day. We were once darkness: now we have become light in the Lord. But ere the shining forth of the light there was the Spirit's brooding. And this is the sanctification referred to in the four passages grouped together above. Notice the order in II Thessalonians 2: "Chosen to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit"—the divine agency—"and belief of the truth"—the Word of life scattering the darkness and bringing in the light of the knowledge of sal-

vation through the name of the Lord Jesus.

It is the same in I Peter. The saved are elect, but it is the sanctification of the Spirit that brings them unto the obedience and blood-sprinkling of Jesus Christ. Now the knowledge of justification is mine when brought by the Spirit to the knowledge of the sprinkled blood of Jesus. It is faith apprehending that His precious blood cleanseth my soul from every stain, thus giving peace. By the Spirit I am brought to this, and to begin a life of obedience—to obey as Christ obeyed. This is the practical effect of the Spirit's sanctification.

But now it is of importance to realize that justification is not in itself a state. It is not a work in the soul, but a work done by Another for me, yet altogether outside of me, and utterly apart from my frames and feelings. In other words, it is my standing, not my experience.

The difference between the two may be illustrated thus: Two men are haled into court charged with the joint commission of a crime. After a full investigation, the judge on the bench justifies them both. They are free. One man, hearing the decision, is filled with delight. He had feared an opposite verdict, and dreaded the consequences. But now he is happy, because he knows he is cleared. The other man was even more anxious and gloomy. So occupied is he with his troubled thoughts that he does not fully catch the declaration of the court, "Not guilty." He hears only the last word, and he is filled with dismay. He sees a loathsome prison rising before him, yet he knows he is innocent. He gives utterance to words of despair until with difficulty made to comprehend the true status of the case, when he too is filled with joy.

Now what had the actual justification of either man to do with his state, or experience? The one who heard and believed was happy. The one who misapprehended the decision was miserable; yet both were alike justified. Justification was not a work wrought in them. It was the judge's sentence in their favor. And this is ever what justification is, whether used in the Bible or in matters of every-day life. God justifies, or clears, the ungodly when they believe in the Lord Jesus who bore their condemnation on the cross. To confound this judicial act with the state of soul of the believer is only confusion.

"But," says one, "I do not feel justified!" Justification has nothing to do with feeling. The question is, Do you believe God is satisfied with His beloved Son as your substitute upon the cross, and do you receive Jesus as your substitute—your personal Saviour? If so, God says you are justified; and there is an end to it. He will not call back His words. Be-

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lieving the gospel declaration, the soul has peace with God. Walking with God, there is joy and gladness, and victory over sin in a practical sense. But this is *state*, not standing.

The Holy Spirit who quickens and sanctifies at the beginning, leading to the knowledge of justification through faith in what God has said about the blood-sprinkling of Jesus Christ, abides now in every believer, to be the power for the new life, and thus for practical sanctification day by day.

In this way the offering-up of the Gentiles—poor aliens, heathen of all descriptions, strangers to

the covenants of promise—is made acceptable to God, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. He accompanies the preaching—the ministry of reconciliation—opening the heart to the truth, convincing of sin, of righteousness and judgment, and leading to personal faith in the Son of God.

I think it must now be plain to any who have carefully followed me thus far that in this aspect at least sanctification is wrongly designated as a "second blessing." It is, on the contrary, the beginning of the work of the Spirit in the soul, and goes on throughout the believer's life, reaching its consummation at the coming of the Lord, when the saved one, in his glorified, sinless body, will be presented faultless in the presence of God. And so Peter, after telling the Christians to whom he writes that they are sanctified by the Spirit, very properly proceeds to exhort them to be holy because He who has saved them is holy, and they are set to represent Him in this world.

So too Paul, after affirming the sanctification of the Thessalonians, yet prays that they may be sanctified wholly, which would be an absurdity if this were accomplished when first sanctified by the Spirit. "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it" (I Thess. 5:23,24). There is no room for doubt as to the final result. Sanctification is God's work; and "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever" (Eccles. 3:14). "He who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6).

When asked for scriptures as to the term "the second blessing," the perfectionist will generally refer you to II Corinthians 1:15. There Paul writes to the Corinthians (who, as declared several times over in his first epistle, were sanctified), and says, "In this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a second benefit." The margin reads, "a second blessing." From this simple expression, an amazing system has been deduced.

It is taught that as a result of Paul's first visit to Corinth many had been justified. But as the carnal mind remained in them, they manifested it in various ways, for which he rebukes them in his first letter. Now he longs to get them again, this time not so much to preach the gospel as to have some "holiness meetings," and get them sanctified!

An ingenious theory surely! but it all falls to the ground when the student of Scriptures observes that the carnal saints of the 1st epistle were sanctified in Christ Jesus (chap. 1:2); had received the Spirit of God (chap. 2:12); were indwelt by that Spirit (chap. 3:16); and, as we have already noticed at some length, were "washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (chap. 6).

What then was the second blessing Paul desired for them? To begin with, it was not the second blessing at all, but a second blessing. They had been blessed by his ministry among them on the first occasion, as they learned from his lips and saw manifested in his ways the truth of God. Like any true-hearted under-shepherd, he longs to visit them again, once more to minister among them, that they may receive blessing, or benefit, a second time. What could be simpler, if the mind were not confused by faulty teaching, leading to one's reading his thoughts into Scripture, instead of learning from it?

From the moment of their conversion, believers are "blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ," and the Spirit is given to lead us into the good that is already ours. "All things are yours" was written, not to persons perfect in their ways, but to the very Corinthians whom we have been considering, and that before they received, through the apostle Paul, a second benefit.

(From the book, *HOLINESS: THE FALSE AND THE TRUE*, published by Loizeaux Bros., 19 W. 21st St., New York City, N. Y. Used by permission. 142 pages, clothbound, price \$1.25; paper-bound, price 75c. Order from the publishers or Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois.)

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Write: Rev. Ralph Mucher, Field Secretary
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214 West Wesley Street
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The Great Invitation

(Continued from page 5)

Him. We may learn not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, and learn to esteem others better than ourselves, and in honor prefer one another.

My, what a stupendous miracle, and how impossible for the flesh to learn that the other fellow is better than I am! "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are" has been shouted from the housetop or whispered under the breath by millions of Pharisees since the one Jesus immortalized—or stigmatized in His graphic story.

We may learn from Him that we do not have to occupy the highest office in the church or be pastor of the biggest church in the land in order to be useful in His kingdom. We may learn that life does not consist of things, that piety is not pretentious, that worship is more than words, and men are not to be measured by money. We may learn that selfishness is suicidal, that unkind criticism is the Devil's witticism, that godliness is great gain, and that crucifying the flesh is crowning Him Lord of life. We may learn from Him to tame the tongue, tether the temper, and master the imagination so that we may think and speak only those things which

are pleasing unto Him. And above all, we may learn to make Him our ideal, our paragon, our hero, our champion, our Big Brother Defender, our solid rock, our fortress, our high tower for strength and safety, our shield and buckler, our sword for conquest. We may learn much from books, more from life and men, but most from Him, our Lord and Master, whose royal sovereignty we humbly, joyfully, and proudly prefer to all the commandments of men.

We Find Rest

The Lord gives rest and we find rest. No soul will ever find rest from the guilt and condemnation of sin except as he comes to Christ for salvation. He gives that. It is not bought or taught, but bestowed. It is not wrought or caught, but inwrought by His Spirit of life, "for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." But just as men cannot find rest from sin but Christ must give it, so must men find rest from anxiety, from care, from doubt, and from failure, and Christ does not directly bestow it. This rest comes through obedient service, through taking up the cross daily and following

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Jesus. In service men find their powers. In bearing responsibility they become sober-minded and achieve a completely integrated personality. Service teaches us self-reliance and resourcefulness. Bearing burdens makes us careful and kindly. "A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind," said Shakespeare.

We learn much in service. When I was a mere stripling, an ox taught me more than I knew about how to get a wagon loose from a stump. The kingpin which extended below the front axle hung on a stump. I told the team to go to the left, but old Brandy knew better. He summoned all his giant power and bowed his mastodon body with a ter-

rific lurch to the right and tore the bolt loose and brought the wagon out. It was my first trip over that marshy road and my first experience when an older brother let me drive. But that boggy river bottom road and stumps were nothing new to Brandy. He had wrenched king bolts loose before, and even knew by the feel of the wagon which way to go to accomplish his purpose. He had tugged by that tongue for years and had learned much as a beast of burden.

But oh, how much we can learn with such a teacher as Christ, and with competent minds and pure purposes stayed on Him!

"Meek and Lowly in Heart"

He is "meek and lowly in heart." How that shames us in our "cocky" pretensions! The teacher is meek and lowly, but we are often strutting and confident. A humble mind is a prime condition of learning. One has seen people who did not "know enough so you could tell them," yet they did all the talking and proceeded to tell the teacher all about that of which they knew nothing.

An unlettered but sensible layman said when asked about his pastor: "Well, he won't listen when you talk to him." Those who will not listen can't learn. "Be still and know that I am God," says the Scripture. That com-

mand may apply to lesser matters and persons. How meek and lowly He is was demonstrated in His behavior. When He was reviled, He reviled not again. When the village refused Him, He turned to another one instead of calling down fire to consume the people as mild and placid John suggested. His voice did not shout and roar and cry in the streets. He did not need to make a noise to attract attention. He was so meek that when He was led to the slaughter, He was like a lamb that is dumb before its shearers and opens not its mouth. He was so humble that He made His grave with the wicked in His death and gave no commandment concerning His bones, for He knew His flesh would not corrupt, but would conquer the grave the third day.

Augustine, one of the great church fathers, wrote in his "Confessions" his spiritual biography. He perhaps realized better than most Christians both the rest which results from surrender to Christ and the rest that we find by walking with the Lord. He wrote in Latin: "Fecisti nos ad te, et inquietum est cor nostrum, donec requiescat in te," which, being translated, means "Thou hast made us for Thee [or Thyself] and our heart has no rest, until it rests in Thee."

Like Noah's dove that found no rest for the sole of its feet until it returned to the ark, so man finds no rest for his lost soul until he comes to Christ, and no rest from anxiety, and worry, and doubt and divided mind, until he takes the yoke of Christ's service and learns from Him, who is meek and lowly in heart, and thus finds rest unto his soul because Christ's yoke is easy and His burden is light. "Come to me, toilers and burdened ones, and I will give you rest."

My Decision for Christ

After reading this blessed sermon by Dr. L. E. Barton, surely the unsaved reader now feels moved to accept the great invitation Jesus offers. Let the editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD plead with you to decide.

It was Jesus who said, "Come unto me." You may come with all your burdens, all your sins, all your problems. I promise you that what He has done for me, what He has done for Dr. Barton, what He has done for unnumbered millions who trusted Him, He will do for you. When you depend upon Him, He will forgive your sins, will save your soul. The blessed Holy Spirit will come in to abide. You will have, at once, everlasting life. Remember the blessed promise, "Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out." If you come by faith, the Lord Jesus will not turn you down. The moment you believe in Him, depend upon Him, turn your case over to Him, He will save you.

If you will take Christ as Saviour, won't you sign the decision form below, copy it in a letter and mail it to me? I will tell Dr. Barton of your decision and he will be very happy, as I will. I will send you a letter of counsel and encouragement. But Jesus Christ Himself will do the saving the moment you put your trust in Him. Do it today! Decide, sign, and write me today.

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor
THE SWORD OF THE LORD
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I realize that I am a poor, guilty sinner who needs saving. I have read Dr. Barton's sermon, "The Great Invitation." I believe that Jesus died to save sinners. I admit that I am a sinner who needs saving. So here and now I turn from my sins to depend on Jesus Christ. I trust Him to give me rest in my soul and forgiveness for my sins, as He promised. With all my heart I receive Him, I depend upon Him. Today I give Him my heart forever. I will claim Him before men, and by His help, will strive to live for Him from this time on.

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Looking for a City

(Continued from page 1)

The Church was outlawed, cast out and trampled upon. It happened in Germany. It has happened in other parts of the world. It can happen here!

Modernism Has Failed

In many ecclesiastical systems in the western world the salt has lost its savour. There has been a repudiation of modernism even among its chiefest advocates, and there has been a neo-orthodox movement among the modernists. They have realized that the salt was losing its savour. They have turned back toward the salt pile, but they have not come back. Neo-orthodoxy is the same modernism expressed in more subtle terms. The sheep's clothing began to wear out and the old wolf had to get a new sheep skin.

The Saving Remnant

The influence of evangelical Christianity throughout the western world has saved civilization thus far. This salt has prevented the domination of communism and other doctrines which would have destroyed us. If part of the salt had not lost its savour, this preservation would be more complete. The true Church of Christ has social influence and power. "Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah" (Isa. 1:9).

Not of the World

The social aspect of the Church is incidental. The Church is not of this world. When we speak of the world we have reference to the Kosmos, the organized world system, which is defined as the ungodly multitude, the whole mass alienated from God and, therefore, hostile to the cause of Christ. John said, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15). James said, "Whosoever, therefore, will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4). We are ambassadors in this world. The Christian located in this world can truly sing, "My home is far away upon a golden strand." While Jesus Christ has His emissaries in this world, He is actually an outcast from it.

A Line of Separation

He was crucified outside the camp. There is a line drawn separating Jesus Christ from this world. There is a gulf fixed, with the world on one side and Jesus on the other. No person can be on both sides. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth" (Luke 11:23). Many nominal Christians try to be on two sides. They try to hold on to God with one hand and the world with the other, and they refuse to turn loose the world. They remind me of the little child who got his hand caught in a beautiful vase. His father told him to straighten out his fingers so his hand would slip out. He said, "No, Daddy, if I do that, I will drop my penny. Let us break the vase." You smile at the simplicity of the little child and yet there are multiplied thousands of professing Christian people hanging on to trivial little worldly things that are not worth a copper cent. They had rather break the vase, so to speak—they had rather ruin a Christian testimony and take a chance on damning their children than to turn loose these things. Hear me, Friends! "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:24).

By-Products of Christianity

There were those who followed Jesus for the loaves and fishes He gave them; and the world today is glad to have the by-products of Christianity if they can get them without the reproach of the cross. We hear much talk about "the American way of life," Western civilization, and Western culture.

All that is good in the western world or in any part of the East emanated from the influence of Jesus Christ, but Jesus does not have His rightful place in the councils of nations. He had no recognition at San Francisco when the nations organized to establish "lasting peace" on the earth. The Prince of Peace was left outside and the peace did not last five years. The nations have formed organizations to give the world a godless, so-called culture. Multiplied millions of American dollars are being spent to promote this program of atheistic humanism while hundreds of missionary volunteers are unable to get support even from Christian people, to carry the Gospel to the nations. I tell you, Jesus Christ is an outcast!

The Fear of Hell

I am drawn out to Jesus. His love draws me to Him. I am not a Christian simply because I am afraid of Hell. The fear of Hell might have had something to do with my coming to Christ, but that is not the power that turned me to Him.

The Hope of Heaven

I am not a Christian simply because I want to go to Heaven when I die. I do want to go to Heaven and I would not miss it for all the world. That might have had something to do with my coming to God, but it is not the main reason I am a Christian.

The Christian Life is Practical

I am not a Christian simply because I know that the Christian life is the only practical life. It is practical. God can see the future and He is willing to map your course and direct your path in a way that will bring the maximum amount of good to your life. It is not practical or sensible to pass up a deal like that. I heard a great Christian statesman say recently that he would not feel safe in trusting his security for this life even in material things to the hands of men who do not have enough common sense to look to their own security for the life to come. The Christian life is not a practical life; it is the practical life. But that is not why I am a Christian.

All Have Influence

I am not a Christian simply because of my influence. I have influence and I want it to count for God. If there were no other reason than this for being a Christian, I would be one, although this is not the only reason I came to Christ. You have influence. Someone has said, "Even a little hair casts a shadow."

*Isn't it strange that princes and kings
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings
And common folks like you and me
Are building for eternity?*

*To each is given a bag of tools,
A shapeless mass and a book of rules.
And each must make ere life has flown
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.*

Oh, if men could realize the importance of their influence!

Why I Am a Christian

I am a Christian because it dawned upon me one day that Jesus loved me. He loved me, a sinner, unlovely, unworthy, and condemned. That love arrested me. It bound me and drew me to Him. I am drawn to Jesus.

Outside the Camp

Jesus is outside of the camp. He was crucified outside of the gate—outside of the gate of a city, the gate of a nation, and the gate of the world.

The World Hates Jesus

The world hates Jesus—Jesus, who filled Heaven with glory in eternity past—Jesus, whom angels and seraphim and cherubs adore—Jesus, the Creator who uprooted the valleys and uprooted the mountains and covered them all

(Continued on page 12)

Bible Questions Answered

(Continued from page 2)

any way I can help you further. I am so glad you have turned to Christ and are serving Him.

In Jesus' name, yours,

John R. Rice

Where to Get Information About National Council of Churches

June 18, 1951

My dear Mrs. W-----:

Forgive the delay in answering your letter. I have been overwhelmed. For facts about the former Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches) and its attitude on modernism, socialism, and communism, I suggest the following books:

1. *The Road Ahead* by John T. Flynn, particularly Chapter 10 on "The Kingdom of God." You may get this in a good paper-bound edition from the address:

Committee for Constitutional Government, Inc.
205 East 42nd Street
New York 17, New York
Send \$1.00 per copy.

Chapter 10 was printed in *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, and I will send you a copy complimentary of that issue if we can find it.

2. The book, *The Case Against the Federal Council of Churches* by Chester E. Tulga, may be had for 25c from:

Conservative Baptist Fellowship
352 Wellington Avenue
Chicago 14, Illinois.

3. The larger book, *Ecclesiastical Octopus* by Ernest Gordon, a large clothbound book may be had for \$2.00 from:

Fellowship Press
9 Park Street
Boston, Massachusetts

4. From the same address, get *Death in the Pot*, by Dr. J. Elwin Wright, a study of the Federal Council, paper-bound, 25c.

The leadership in the Federal Council of Churches is in the main, definitely modernistic or infidel, denying the inspiration of the Bible, the deity of Christ, the

blood atonement, the need for the new birth. It is definitely socialist, their leaders are sometimes pink or red.

The Lord will have to give you wisdom as to what to do. And in my judgment, no Christian has a right to put a dime of money anywhere that it will go into the hands of modernists for their support or to support the ungodly doctrine which breaks down faith in the Bible. To support a school which turns out infidels, to support the foreign mission program which does not preach salvation through the blood of Christ is a sin, according to II John 7-9 which says, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ he hath both the Father and the Son."

The Lord give you wisdom as to what to do.

In Jesus' name, yours,

John R. Rice

Praying for Sinners; Christian Rededication; Praying to Be Filled With the Spirit; Christ Divine, Yet Human

A Christian layman wrote me several questions. They are indicated in my reply and I hope the answers will be helpful.

January 12, 1950

Dear Brother I-----:

I am glad to have your letter and will answer your questions the best I can.

1. Yes, it is certainly right to pray that sinners will be converted or saved. Paul says in Romans 10:1, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."

2. The Bible does clearly teach that Christians ought to rededicate themselves to God as often as necessary and suitable. Writing to Christians at Rome, Paul said by divine inspiration, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). That would mean rededication, of course.

Many Bible Christians found a need to rededicate themselves or make a new start in living for God. That was true about David after his sin with Bathsheba and you will read his prayer of rededication in Psalm 51. There is evidence that Samson, Peter, and Jonah rededicated themselves to God after they as Christians had fallen into sin.

3. Yes, it is certainly proper for a Christian who has been born again and received the Holy Spirit, to pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Even if one has been wonderfully filled with the Spirit for service, he needs a new filling for new tasks. As a Bible example, in Acts 2:4 we are told of the disciples, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." Later the same group prayed again for power and boldness and Acts 4:31 tells us, "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

4. Yes, Christ was both human and divine. But He was not sinful. He was human in that He had a physical body like ours; He was tried and tempted in all points like we are (yet without sin). He was completely human and completely divine. He had a human mother, but God was His Father. Humanity in the case of Jesus does not imply sin. He was human in the same way that Adam was in the Garden of Eden before Adam sinned.

Thank you for your letter.
In the Saviour's name, yours,
John R. Rice

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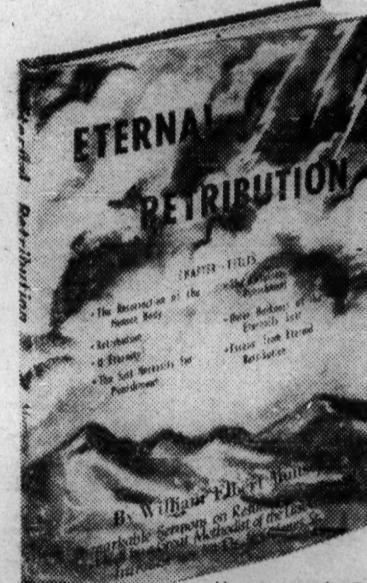
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Christmas Message

(Continued from page 1)

Let us face the Scriptures:

"A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (that is, God is with us)" (Isa. 7:14).

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:1, 14).

"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (John 1:18).

The word "declared" in this passage means "led him forth," that is, into a full revelation hath He (Jesus) introduced Him, (God).

"Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 14:8-10).

I have heard men accuse the Apostle Paul of saying too much about Jesus Christ and of exalting Him to a plane He Himself never taught. But what Jesus

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July 22, 1951

Dear Brother Rice,
I have just finished reading your article entitled, "Last Night I Preached On Hell!"

Sometime ago I read a very interesting paragraph from the pen of a fine Japanese Christian pastor who was describing the various religious systems of his native land. He said the oldest of the three religions is Shintoism. This is the only one born on the soil of Japan. It has up until now enjoyed the patronage of the government. Second in age and for centuries first in influence, is Buddhism with its doctrines and philosophy which are woven deeply into the warp and woof of Japanese thought. This religious system came to Japan by way of China about the sixth century. While both these religions differ in many ways, both have one thing in common which is the belief that men become gods.

While Christianity is not very deeply entrenched in the Land of the Rising Sun, yet how different to their religious systems of long centuries! In Christianity, the followers of Christ do not become gods; but as my text affirms, God in Christ became flesh and dwelt among us. "God was in Christ."

Furthermore, the Christian's Christmas message is a message of a

(Signed) Rev. Howard Johnson

Should YOU Send a Missionary The Sword of The Lord This Year?

vation. He was born to save and in this His birth is marked off from that of all others. The shadow of Calvary fell athwart the manger. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Here again we see the linking of the incarnation with Jesus' divine Saviourhood. Such was the Christmas message of the angels. There was no question in their minds as to who this One was. They knew full well that "God was in Christ." Christmas, as God meant it, has an eternal meaning, a salvation aspect, the provision of a Saviour.

The star of hope for mankind shines gloriously as one of the first magnitude in the opening chapter of the New Testament. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). No sooner is the Babe born than there is the announcement of sal-

vation. He was born to save and in this His birth is marked off from that of all others. The shadow of Calvary fell athwart the manger. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Here again we see the linking of the incarnation with Jesus' divine Saviourhood. Such was the Christmas message of the angels. There was no question in their minds as to who this One was. They knew full well that "God was in Christ." Christmas, as God meant it, has an eternal meaning, a salvation aspect, the provision of a Saviour.

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17). Herein is the plain declaration that Bethlehem has a vital relation to the Cross of Calvary. "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, that when Jesus did appear all should have recognized Him as

he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14).

Is man worth saving? The incarnation of God is the divine answer. Jesus came for no other purpose. Such condescension as this calls for the greatest possible consecration and devotion on our part.

The next thing to which I invite your attention in connection with the Christian's Christmas message is that it is a message of

Supernatural Confirmation

The birth of the Lord Jesus confirms the promises, ratifies the covenants, fulfills the prophecies and upholds the truth of the Word of God. Most of the world is divided into two camps. One holds that the Bible is the Word of God and the other rejects it as a supernatural Book, and such folk often become so strong in their unbelief as to openly denounce the Bible and its divine authority.

There are five chapters in the New Testament which have to do with the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. These chapters are the first two of Matthew and the first three of the gospel of Luke. The careful student of the Scriptures has noted that thirty-five of the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament contribute to these five birth-story chapters. Every century of Israel's history from the sojourn in Egypt until the last of the prophets speaks in these birth records. Every chapter appearing at the birth of our Lord speaks and acts in the environment and language of the Old Testament.

When Jesus was born He was the fulfilment of what was predicted in the Old Testament. His birth confirmed the truth of what had been promised by God centuries before through His holy prophets. The Old Testament was written from 500 to 1500 years before the birth of the Lord Jesus, and when He appeared in Bethlehem, born of the virgin Mary, He fit into every crack and crevice of all that God had promised.

How did the prophets know of a coming Messiah? How did they know when and where He was to be born? Who told them of the minute circumstances of His advent into the world? Only one true answer can be given to questions such as these. God revealed these things to them so that when Jesus did appear all should have recognized Him as

the promised Messiah. A few did, but the multitudes rejected Him. "He came unto His own, and His own received him not." These prophets predicted the most unusual and impossible thing of all, even His virgin birth. Facing such things as these, who can doubt the authenticity of the sacred Scriptures, and who cannot see in the birth of Jesus a glorious confirmation of the truth of them?

I often think of what a chemist of international fame said when he told how science corroborated the Bible. Dr. E. E. Slosson declared, "The greatest miracle of the Bible is its chemical accuracy. The book of Genesis says man was made out of the dust. In the dust there are fourteen different chemical elements, and in the body of man there are those same fourteen chemical elements." Who told Moses this, and who told him and other men of old about the coming of a Redeemer into the world? The answer is obvious.

The Christian's Christmas message is one of

Supernatural Expectation

The Bible speaks of two advents, two unveilings and two revelations, the first in humility and the other in sharp contrast, for it is to be in great power and glory.

"And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:30-33).

Thus the angel links the manager with the throne, Bethlehem with Olivet, His humiliation with His glorification. Surely our message is not complete without the ultimate hope of the coming of our Lord once again into the world.

Many earnest and spiritually-minded believers feel that the day when He shall sit upon the throne of David to wield the scepter of His power over the nations is not far hence. The long expected millennium will come supernaturally. The coming of the Kingdom of our Lord will not come through the efforts of man or by the preaching of the Gospel. God has ordained it otherwise. The Gospel is to be preached and men are to be evangelized, but the Kingdom is that which will be set up by the personal return of the King from the heavens.

I cannot help but wonder if the thought thrills your soul that this might be our last Christmas in this world, and that before another year rolls around the whole church shall have been raptured?

"When in Madeira," wrote a traveler, "I set off one morning to reach the summit of a mountain. I had a guide with me, and after a difficult climb we had only ascended some two thousand feet when a thick mist was seen descending upon us. I thought we had no hope left but to retrace our steps or be lost; but as the cloud came nearer and darkness overshadowed us, my guide ran on before me, penetrating the mist, and calling back to me ever and anon, saying, 'Press on, master, press on. There's light beyond.' I did press on and in a few minutes the mist was passed, and I gazed upon a scene of transcendent beauty. All was light and cloudless above, and beneath was the almost level mist, concealing the world below me, and glistening in the rays of the sun like a field of untrodden snow. There was nothing at that moment between me and the heavens."

So we, no matter how many may be the trials of this world, can likewise press on for there is light beyond, the light of His on-coming. Hope is ever beckoning us to go forward. "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). Amen and amen!

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